

DION AND THE SIBYLS

By Miles Gerald Keon

A CLASSIC CHRISTIAN NOVEL.

The Emperor, and the Caesars, Tiberius and Germanicus, with the famous authors we have already more than once mentioned, Leve, and Lucius Varius, and Velleius Paterculus were present. Aelius Sejanus, the prefect of the Praetorians; Cneius Piso, the gambler; Plancina, his rich wife; Lucius Ziso, his brother, governor at Rome; with many persons who then sparkled in the court orbits, but whose names have perished out of human memory; and Julia, the emperor's daughter, Tiberius's new wife; and Agrippina Vipsanis, lately his wife; and Agrippina Julia, daughter of the former, sister of the latter, wife of Germanicus, and mother of Caligula; and Livia, the aged wife of Augustus himself, all appeared among the guests. Chairs and couches had been placed here and there. Augustus and the ladies we have mentioned were seated, some just within, others just without one of the arcades, between two of its columns, so that the moonlight fell upon some heads, the lamplight upon others; and a wayward, dubious mixture of both upon the golden tresses of Agrippina Julia, and a beautiful young girl near her, on whom Domitius Afer, the celebrated orator, was gazing with admiration. But she, when she at last observed his glance, fixed upon him such a look of combined scorn and amazement that the advocate winced and became livid. She was destined, one day, to be the subject of his fatal eloquence, and to appease by nothing less than her execution the vindictive vanity of the orator, because she had spurned the ambitious love of the man.

Tacitus alludes to the poor Claudia Pulchra's brief tale. Quintus Haterius, whose Shakespeare-like variety of mind and bewitching eloquence had, as Ben Jonson implies in a comparison already cited by us, few rivals, was seated not far from Augustus. Next sat Livy. Antistius Labio and his rival Domitius Afer, who now occupied the place and fame in the forum from which Haterius on account of his age had withdrawn, stood leaning against a pillar, each with his arms folded. Both these persons, as well as Livy and Haterius, wore the toga; Sejanus, the scarlet paludamentum. The other male guests—except Tiberius, whose dark purple robe was conspicuous, and Germanicus, who was dressed in the costume of a commander-in-chief, wore a species of large tunic, called lacerna, which contrary to the taste of the emperor, and despite of his frequently expressed disapproval had become fashionable. The story mentioned by Suetonius is well known. One day Augustus, seeing numbers of the people wearing the lacerna, asked indignantly, in a line of Virgil's, could these be Romans, "Romanorum rerum dominos, gentemque togatam," and ordered the aediles to admit none but toga-wearers into either the forum or the circus. But this was many years before the evening with which we are now engaged.

Among the groups collected in the Mamurran palace were representatives of the three great arts, in mastering which the highest education of classic antiquity was exhausted; we mean the arts of politics, of public speaking, and of strategy—government, eloquence, and war. They were all represented, each of them had its proper image in the groups we have described. As those pursuits constituted the favorite intellectual sphere, and comprehended all the fields of ambition, to be eminent in any one of them was to succeed in life, and to be adopted into that class of society of which so many distinguished members were entertained in the Formian palace on the night at which our tale has arrived.

If a man excelled, like Julius Caesar, in all the three arts named, he could revolutionize the world. The mechanic arts, the fine arts, philosophy, physical science, mathematics, attracted individual votaries indeed; but were neglected by the ambition of a few, as well as by the indolence of many.

The mention of physical studies recalls Strabo, the geographer, who was among the guests this evening at the palace.

Many others who were there we need not enumerate; but some will

claim a word and a glance. When Dionysius arrived, and introduced Paulus to the aged knight, Mamurra, the company was already numerous. Mamurra patted Paulus on the shoulder, and said, although the other day in the road he had not at once recalled old times, he remembered Paulus's brave father very well at the battle of Phillippi; and that he, Mamurra, had seen him and Agrippa Vipsanus together, rallying the wing which Mark Antony had broken, and that he himself had charged with the cavalry to help him. This speech was very gracious, and our hero, who well knew it to be true, blushed with pride and pleasure. While the glow of this natural and honorable emotion was still coloring his young face, as he bowed to Mamurra, the latter took him by the arm, and said in a low voice,

"Come, let an old soldier present the son of a former comrade, whose life was honorable, and whose memory is glorious, to the master for whom they both fought with equal zeal, although unequal fortune."

Augustus returned Paulus's low salutation with a faint yet not unkindly smile, and then looked with a sort of sleepy steadiness at Tiberius, who heard Mamurra's words, and whose face was apparently flaming with a dark red rage. Near Tiberius, who now threw himself upon the cushions of a couch plated with gold, just opposite the chair which Augustus had selected, stood a tall regular-featured, Brahmin-like man, in Asiatic dress, and next to this individual, Sejanus, with his usual air of supercilious composure, yet intent watchfulness.

The couch we have mentioned was long and large, and two ladies, one old, the other young, were already sitting at the further end of it. The first was Antonia, the mother of Germanicus, the second was Agrippina Julia, his wife. Just in front of them, upon a low stool, sat the son of the latter, Caius Caligula, with his eyes yet bandaged, as the reader will not be surprised to hear; while at his side, fidgeting with large, red, lubberly hands, stood a big loutish, heavy-looking boy, who was considerably the senior of that dear child. This was no other than Claudius, (or the fourth of the Caesarian dynasty, (or the fifth, if Julius Caesar be accounted the first,) reserved against his will, to mount the throne of the word amid panic and horror, that day when Caligula shall be hacked to pieces by Cassius Chaerias, in the theatre of the palace at Rome.

Thus, three future rulers of mankind, destined to bear dire sceptres in dark and evil days, were around the white hairs of Augustus Caesar to-night.

As Paulus stepped backward after Augustus's languid but not unkindly reception of him, Dionysius, who was just behind, moved quickly and gracefully out of his way, and Claudius, the big, loutish lad, being impelled thereto by the nature of him, shuffled forward so as to come in collision with Paulus.

"Monster!" exclaimed Antonia, ashamed of her son's awkwardness; "if I wanted to prove any one void of all mind, I would call him more stupid than you!"

Paulus glided into the background, saying with a bow and a smile, "My fault!"

He now found himself in the immediate neighborhood of that eastern group which his young sister had described as presenting themselves one morning at the entrance of the bower in the inn garden, when she was there listening to the strange conversation of Plancina; we mean Queen Berenice and her daughter Herodias, and her son Herod Agrippa.

They all three fixed their gaze upon him with that unabashed, hardy manner peculiar to the family, and Paulus was beginning to feel uncomfortable in their vicinity and under their scrutiny, when Germanicus Caesar approached, and complimenting him upon his brilliant exploit two evenings before, asked him whether he would like to join the expedition which was to start next day to drive the Germans from the north-east of Italy?

(To be continued)

KIDNEY DISEASE. Diseases of the Kidneys are numerous, from the fact that these organs act as filters to the blood, and form one of the great channels for the removal of impurities from the system, which, if allowed to remain, give rise to the various kidney affections, such as Dropsy, Diabetes, and Bright's Disease. The following are some of the symptoms of kidney disease:—Backache, sideache, swelling of the feet and ankles, frequent thirst, puffiness under the eyes, floating specks before the eyes, and all disorders of the urinary system, such as frequent, thick, cloudy, scanty, or highly colored urine. DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS are exactly what the name suggests. They are not a cure-all, but are a specific for kidney troubles only. Price 50 cents per box, or 8 for \$1.25. All dealers, or THE DOAN KIDNEY PILL CO., Toronto, Ont.

50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE PATENTS TRADE MARKS DESIGNS COPYRIGHTS & C. Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. HANDBOOK on Patents sent free. Oldest agency for securing patents. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice, without charge, in the Scientific American. A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year; four months, \$1. Sold by all newswriters. MUNN & Co. 361 Broadway, New York Branch Office, 626 F St., Washington, D. C.

Why be Tied to a Hot Kitchen? USE A GAS RANGE and you have heat only where, when and as long as you want it. Call and see these stoves before buying. AUER LIGHT CO. Telephone 236. 215 Portage Avenue

First Communion Suits For Boys In Black, Blue, Worsted, and Serge, all sizes, 24 to 30. Prices range from \$3.50 to \$4.00

Our Men's Shirt Sale Is in full blast. 50 dozen Fine Cambric Shirts, Sale Price, 75¢

T. D. DEEGAN 556 Main St.

The Rule of Purity Purity in medicines may mean life and health to you. You can be sure of pure drugs and accurate dispensing here. A prescription is compounded under the eye of Mr. Wise himself.

H. A. WISE & CO. Druggists. McIntyre Block.

THE Very Best Preparation such as any young man or woman can have for the duties of a business life is a practical education. The Winnipeg Business College affords every facility for acquiring such education as will fit students for office work. No midsummer holidays are taken. Full information can be had by telephone, personal interview or writing to the office. G. W. DONALD, Secretary

Dr. J. McKenty, OFFICE: UNION BANK BLOCK, RESIDENCE: 232 DONALD STREET, TELEPHONES OFFICE 541. RESIDENCE 1863

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Austin St., near C.P.R. Station. Pastor, Rev. A. A. CHERRIER. SUNDAYS—Low Mass, with short instruction, 8.30 a.m. High Mass, with sermon, 10.30 a.m. Vespers, with an occasional sermon, 7.15 p.m. Catechism in the Church, 3 p.m. N.B.—Sermon in French on first Sunday in the month, 9 a.m. Meeting of the children of Mary 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month, 4 p.m. WEEK DAYS—Masses at 7 and 7.30 a.m. On first Friday in the month, Mass at 8 a.m. Benediction at 7.30 p.m. N.B.—Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 3 to 10 p.m., and every day in the morning before Mass.

C. M. B. A. Grand Deputy for Manitoba. Rev. A. A. Cherrier, Winnipeg, Man. Agent of the C.M.B.A. for the Province of Manitoba with power of attorney, Dr. J. K. Barrett, Winnipeg, Man. The Northwest Review is the official organ for Manitoba and the Northwest, of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

BRANCH 52, WINNIPEG. Meets in No. 1 Trades Hall, Fould's Block, corner Main and Market Sts., every 1st and 3rd Wednesday in each month, at 8 o'clock, p.m.

OFFICERS OF BRANCH 52 C. M. B. A., FOR 1905. Spiritual Adviser—Rev. Father Cahill, O. M. I. President—Richard Murphy. 1st Vice-Pres.—J. J. Hartnedy. 2nd Vice-Pres.—C. Bampfield. Rec.-Sec.—R. F. Hinds, 123 Granville St. Asst. Rec.-Sec.—A. P. Donnelly. Fin.-Sec.—W. J. Kiely, 590 Pritchard Ave.

Treas.—M. J. Dalton. Marchall—J. Gladnich. Guard—Russell Murphy. Trustees—L. O. Genest, J. Gladnich, W. Jordan, D. Smith, W. G. Eddy. Meetings are held 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock P.M., Trades Hall cor. Market and Main Sts. located at Winnipeg.

OFFICERS OF BRANCH 163, C. M. B. A. FOR 1904. President—A. Picard. 1st Vice President, Bro. C. Bampfield. 2nd Vice President, Bro. J. H. O'Connor.

Rec.-Sec.—J. Marinski, 180 Austin street. Assist. Rec.-Sec.—J. Schmidt. Fin.-Sec.—Rev. A. A. Cherrier. Treasurer—J. Shaw. Marshall—C. Meder. Guard—L. Hout. Trustees—M. Buck, H. Wass. Rep. to Grand Council—Rev. A. A. Cherrier. Alternate—James E. Manning.

ST. MARY'S COURT NO. 276. Catholic Order of Foresters Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday in Trades Hall, Fould's Block, at 8.30 p.m. Chief Ranger—J. J. McDonald. Vice-Chief Ranger—R. Murphy. Rec.-Sec.—W. J. Kiely, 424 Notre Dame ave. P. O. Box 469. Fin.-Sec.—I. P. Raleigh. Treasurer—Jno. A. Coyle. Rep. to State Court—J. J. McDonald. Alternate—F. W. Russell. Senior Conductor—F. W. Russell. Junior Conductor—R. Chevrier. Inside Sentinel—W. Mahoney.

(In Faith and Friendship) Catholic Club OF WINNIPEG. COR. MAIN AND MARKET STREETS Established 1900 FOULDS BLOCK The club is located in the most central part of the city, the rooms are large, commodious and well equipped. Catholic gentlemen visiting the city are cordially invited to visit the club. Open every day from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. F. W. RUSSELL, H. H. COTTINGHAM President Hon.-Secretary

TIME TABLES

Canadian Pacific

Table with columns: Lv., EAST, Ar. and rows listing train routes and times between various stations like Selkirk, Rat Portage, Fort William, Port Arthur, Toronto, etc.

Canadian Northern

Table with columns: Lv., EAST, Ar. and rows listing train routes and times between Winnipeg, Fort Frances, St. Anne, Giroux, Warroad, Beaudette, Rainy River, Pinewood, Emo, etc.